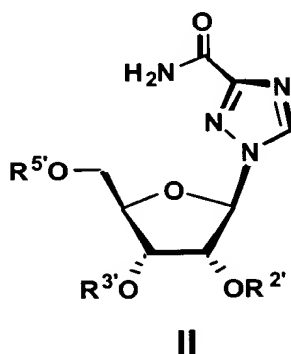


# IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows

1(Currently amended). A compound represented by formula II



wherein at least one of  $R^{2'}$ ,  $R^{3'}$  or  $R^{5'}$  is H,  $R^{20}-(W)_x-CO-$ ,  $R^{20}-(W)_x-CS-$  or  $R^{20}-(W)_x-PO(OH)-$ ; and wherein at least one of  $R^{2'}$ ,  $R^{3'}$ ,  $R^{5'}$  or  $R^{20}$  is not H; wherein  $[R^{20}]$  is  $R^{20}$  is alkyl, H, alkanoyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, heterocyclic,  $NR^{21}R^{22}$ , alkenyl, or alkynyl; or is alkyl, alkanoyl alkenyl or alkynyl substituted by halo, phenyl, cycloalkyl,  $NR^{21}R^{22}$ , hydroxy, alkoxy; or is aryl substituted by phenyl halo, CN,  $NO_2$ , OH,  $R^{28}$ ,  $OR^{28}$ ,  $CF_3$ , SH,  $SR^{21}$ ,  $SOR^{21}$ ,  $SO_2R^{21}$ ;  $NR^{21}R^{22}$ ,  $CO_2H$ ,  $CO_2^-$ ,  $OR^{21}$ ,  $O^-M^+$  or  $S^-M^+$ ; wherein  $M^+$  is an alkali metal cation;

or  $R^{20}$  is-  $-(CHR^{21})_e-(CH_2)_f-CO-OR^{22}$ ,

$-(CHR^{21})_e-(CH_2)_f-OR^{22}$ , or  $-(CHR^{21})_e-(CH_2)_f-NR^{21}R^{22}$

W is O,  $NR^{28}$  or S;

$R^{21}$  is H, alkyl, alkanoyl [Y] or aryl or is alkyl, alkanoyl or aryl substituted

substituted by halo, phenyl, CN, NO<sub>2</sub>, OH, CO<sub>2</sub>H or alkoxy; and R<sup>22</sup> is H, alkyl or aryl or is alkyl or aryl substituted by phenyl; halo, CN, NO<sub>2</sub>, OH, CO<sub>2</sub>H or alkoxy;

or R<sup>21</sup> and R<sup>22</sup> taken together with N and one of CHR<sup>21</sup>, NR<sup>21</sup>, O, S, SO or SO<sub>2</sub> form a five-, six- or seven- membered ring;

R<sup>27</sup> is H, OR<sup>21</sup>, NR<sup>21</sup>R<sup>22</sup>, R<sup>20</sup>-(W)<sub>x</sub>-CO-, R<sup>20</sup>-(W)<sub>x</sub>-CS-, (HO)<sub>2</sub>PO- or R<sup>20</sup>-(W)<sub>x</sub>-PO(OH) - or HO-SO<sub>2</sub>-;

R<sup>28</sup> is H, alkanoyl, aryl, alkyl or alkyl substituted by OH, halo or NR<sup>21</sup>R<sup>22</sup>;

e= 0 to 6, f= 0 to 10, t = 0 to 100; s = 0 to 6000; r = 1 to 5000; and x = 0 or 1;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

2(Original). A pharmaceutical composition of a compound of claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

3(Currently amended).. A method of using a compound represented by formula II of claim 1 for treating a susceptible viral infection, wherein the method comprises administering a therapeutically effective amount of a ribavirin derivative of formula II of claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

[.]

4(Currently amended).. A method of using a compound represented by formula II of claim 1 in association with interferon alpha for treating a chronic hepatitis C viral("HCV") infection, wherein the method comprises administering a therapeutically effective amount of a ribavirin derivative of formula II of claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof and a therapeutically effective amount of an interferon alpha.

5(Currently amended).. The method of claim 4, wherein the interferon-alpha is selected from interferon alpha-2a, interferon alpha-2b, a consensus interferon, a purified interferon alpha product or a pegylated interferon-alpha-2a, pegylated interferon-alpha-2b, and pegylated consensus interferon.

6(Currently amended).. The method of claim 4, wherein the interferon-alpha [administered] is a pegylated interferon alpha-2b and the amount of pegylated interferon-alpha-2b [administered] is from 0.5 to 2.0 micrograms/kilogram per week on a weekly, [TIW] three times a week("TIW"), [QOD] every other day("QOD") or daily basis,

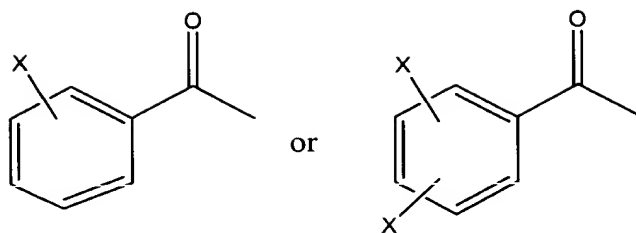
7(Original). The method of claim 4, wherein the interferon-alpha administered is a pegylated interferon alpha-2a and the amount of pegylated interferon alpha-2a administered is from 20 to 250 micrograms per week on a weekly, TIW, QOD or daily basis.

9(Original). The compound of formula II of claim 1, wherein  $R^{2'} = R^{3'} = H$ .

10(Original). The compound of formula II of claim 1 wherein  $R^{2'} = R^{5'} = H$ ,

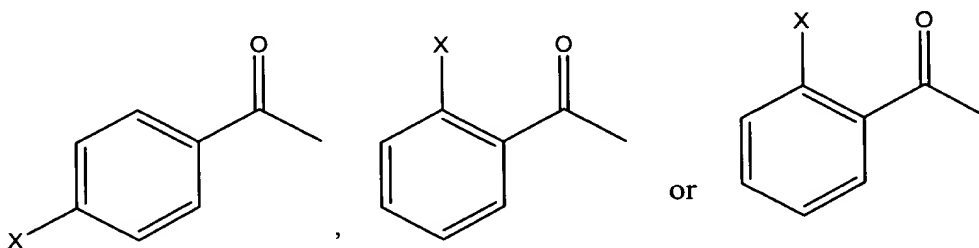
11(Original). The compound of formula II of claim 1 wherein  $R^{3'} = R^{5'} = H$ .

12(Original). The compound of formula II of claim 1, wherein  $R^{5'}$  is one of



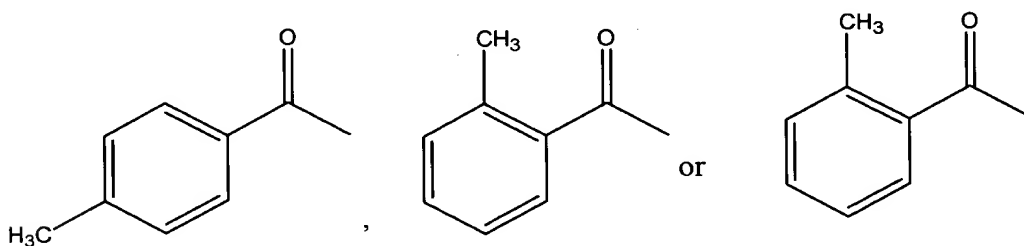
wherein X is independently OH, alkanoyl, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, alkanoylamino, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxy, alkyl, CN, NO<sub>2</sub>, halo, or alkyl substituted by OH, alkanoyl, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, alkanoylamino, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxy, CN, NO<sub>2</sub>, or halo.

13 The compound of formula II of claim 1, wherein R<sup>5'</sup> is

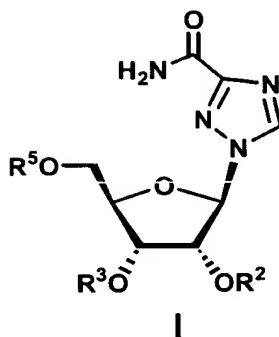


wherein X is OH, COCH<sub>3</sub>, OCOCH<sub>3</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub>, NH<sub>2</sub>, [[CH<sub>3</sub>]<sub>2</sub>N], (CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>N, NHCOCH<sub>3</sub>, CH<sub>2</sub>OH, CH<sub>3</sub>, OCH<sub>3</sub>, F, Br or Cl.

14. The compound of claim 1, wherein R<sup>5'</sup> is



15(Original). A method of treating patients having chronic hepatitis C infection comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a ribavirin derivative of formula I and a therapeutically effective amount of interferon-alpha for a time period sufficient to eradicate detectable HCV-RNA at the end of said period of administering and to have no detectable HCV-RNA for at least 24 weeks after the end of said period of administering, and wherein the ribavirin derivative is represented by formula I:



wherein at least one of  $R^2$ ,  $R^3$  or  $R^5$  is H,  $R^6-(W)_x-CO-$ ,  $R^6-(W)_x-CS-(HO)_2PO-$ ,  $R^6-(W)_x-PO(OH)-$  or  $HO-SO_2-$  and wherein at least one of  $R^2$ ,  $R^3$  or  $R^5$  is not H;  
wherein  $R^6$  is H, alkyl, alkanoyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl,  $NR^{7a}R^{7b}$ , alkenyl, or alkynyl;

or is alkyl, alkanoyl, alkenyl or alkynyl substituted by halo, phenyl, cycloalkyl,  $NR^{7a}R^{7b}$ , hydroxy or alkoxy;

or  $R^6$  is aryl substituted by phenyl, halo, CN,  $NO_2$ , OH,  $R^{18}$ ,  $OR^{18}$ ,  $CF_3$ , SH,  $SR^{7a}$ ,  $SOR^{7a}$ ,  $SO_2R^{7a}$ ;  $NR^{7a}R^{7b}$ ,  $CO_2H$ ,  $CO_2^- M^+$ ,  $O^- M^+$ ,  $OR^{7a}$  or  $S^- M^+$ ;

wherein  $M^+$  is an alkali metal cation;

or  $R^6$  is  $-(CHR^{7a})_e-(CH_2)_f-CO-OR^{7b}$ ,  
 $-(CHR^{7a})_e-(CH_2)_f-OR^{7b}$ , or  $-(CHR^{7a})_e-(CH_2)_f-NR^{7a}R^{7b}$

W is O,  $NR^{18}$  or S;

$R^{7a}$  is H, alkyl, alkanoyl, aryl or is alkyl, alkanoyl or aryl substituted by halo phenyl, CN,  $NO_2$ , OH,  $CO_2H$  or alkoxy; and  $R^{7b}$  is H, alkyl or aryl or is alkyl or aryl substituted by halo, CN,  $NO_2$ ,  $CO_2H$ , OH or alkoxy;

or  $R^{7a}$  and  $R^{7b}$  taken together with N and one of  $CHR^{7a}$ ,  $NR^{7a}$ , O, S, SO or  $SO_2$  form a five-, six- or seven- membered ring;

$R^{17}$  is H,  $OR^{7a}$ ,  $NR^{7a}R^{7b}$ ,  $R^6-(W)_x-CO-$ ,  $R^6-(W)_x-CS-$ ,  $(HO)_2PO-$ ,

$R^6-(W)_x-PO(OH)-$ , or  $HO-SO_2-$ ;

$R^{18}$  is H, aryl, alkyl, or alkyl substituted by OH, halo,  $NR^{7a}R^{7b}$ , or alkanoyl;

$e = 0$  to 6,  $f = 0$  to 10, and  $x = 0$  or 1;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

16(Original). The method of claim 15 wherein  $R^5$  is  $R^6CO$  wherein  $R^6$  is aryl substituted by phenyl, halo, CN,  $NO_2$ , OH,  $R^{18}$ ,  $OR^{18}$ ,  $CF_3$ ,  $SH$ ,  $SR^{7a}$ ,  $SOR^{7a}$ ,  $SO_2R^{7a}$ ,  $NR^{7a}R^{7b}$ ,  $CO_2H$ ,  $CO_2^- M^+$ ,  $O^- M^+$ ,  $OR^{7a}$  or  $S^- M^+$  and wherein  $M^+$  is an alkali metal cation.

17(Original). The method of claim 15 wherein  $R^5$  is  $R^6CO$  wherein  $R^6$  is phenyl substituted by, halo, CN,  $NO_2$ , OH,  $R^{18}$ ,  $OR^{18}$ ,  $CF_3$ ,  $SH$ ,  $SR^{7a}$ ,  $SOR^{7a}$ ,  $SO_2R^{7a}$ ,  $NR^{7a}R^{7b}$ ,  $CO_2H$ ,  $CO_2^- M^+$ ,  $O^- M^+$ ,  $OR^{7a}$  or  $S^- M^+$  and wherein  $M^+$  is an alkali metal cation.